

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 181455Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1280

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL RIVALRIES WITHIN AD

1. THE GOVERNING ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY IS CURRENTLY DIVIDED ON THE QUESTION OF ACCEPTING OPPOSITION COPEI PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL PEDRO PABLO AGUILAR'S CHALLENGE TO PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION. WHEN AGUILAR CHALLENGED AD SECRETARY GENERAL LUIS PINERUA ORDAZ TO A TELEVISED DEBATE EARLIER THIS MONTH, PINERUA REFUSED, STATING THAT SUCH A DEBATE IS INAPPROPRIATE IN AN OFF-ELECTION YEAR. PINERUA WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CRITICIZED FOR HIS REFUSAL BY TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF AD'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, DEPUTIES CARLOS CANACHE MATA AND DAVID MORALES BELLO, BOTH 1978 PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS AND RIVALS OF PINERUA. THEY ARGUED THAT AD COULD NOT AFFORD TO APPEAR WEKA POLITICALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY BEFORE THE COPEI CHALLENGE AND SUGGESTED ANOTHER AD LEADER BE NAMED TO CONFRONT AGUILAR IF PINERUA WERE UNWILLING TO DO SO.

2. ANNOYED BY THE OPEN CRITICISM OF TWO OF HIS PRINCIPAL RIVALS WITHIN AD, PINERUA LAST WEEK MET WITH THE HEADS OF AD'S STATE PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY'S YOUTH, LABOR, AND AGRARIAN BUREAUS. ALTHOUGH PINERUA SAID THE MEETINGS DISCUSSED AD PROGRAMS FOR THE NEXT YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS PINERUA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE MEETINGS TO CRITICIZE CANACHE AND MORALES FOR THEIR OPEN BREAK WITH PARTY DISCIPLINE. PINERUA LET IT BE KNOWN HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE DIFFERENT PUBLIC POSITIONS

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WITHIN AD WITH REGARD TO THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS NOR ACCEPT THE

EXISTENCE OF SEVERAL SPOKESMEN WITHIN THE PARTY'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. MEANWHILE, DEPUTY HUMBERTO CELLI, A SUPPORT OF PINERUA WITHIN AD'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ACCUSED CANACHE OF MAKING COMMON CAUSE WITH SOME OF AD'S MOST STRENUOUS CRITICS. AT A DECEMBER 15 PRESS CONFERENCE PINERUA DENIED A CRISIS EXISTS WITHIN AD AND REFUSED TO COMMENT ON CANACHE'S AND MORALES' CRITICISMS.

3. COMMENT. PINERUA'S RELUCTANCE TO DEBATE AGUILAR OSTENSIBLY STEMS FROM HIS DISINCLINATION TO GIVE ANY SORT OF BOOST TO AGUILAR IN THE LATTER'S CAMPAIGN FOR REELECTION AS COPEI SECRETARY GENERAL. ACTUALLY, PINERUA'S REFUSAL REFLECTS HIS OWN REALIZATION THAT HE WOULD CUT A RATHER POOR FIGURE IN A PUBLIC DEBATE WITH SO AGILE A POLEMICIST AS AGUILAR--A CONSIDERATION OF WHICH CANACHE AND MORALES WERE WELL AWARE WHEN THEY CRITICIZED PINERUA FOR NOT ACCEPTING AGUILAR'S CHALLENGE. BY CLAMPING DOWN THE LID ON INTERNAL PARTY BICKERING PINERUA WARNED HIS AD RIVALS THAT HE WILL NOT ALLOW THEM PUBLICLY TO SNIPE AT HIS HEELS AND CONVEYED THE HINT OF POSSIBLE CENSURE BY THE PARTY IF THEY PERSIS IN DOING SO.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY SCHISMS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA13163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750440-0748
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751229/aaaaazev.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNAL RIVALRIES WITHIN AD
TAGS: PINT, VE, COPEI, AD-ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006